

# Framing *the* Future



# BIG NEWS: CONSTRUCTION IN THE MANSION HAS BEGUN!

After extensive investigation, design, and planning, the construction phase of the landmark Mansion Revitalization Project is underway.

We are now ready to begin work to strengthen the Mansion's timber frame and masonry foundation!

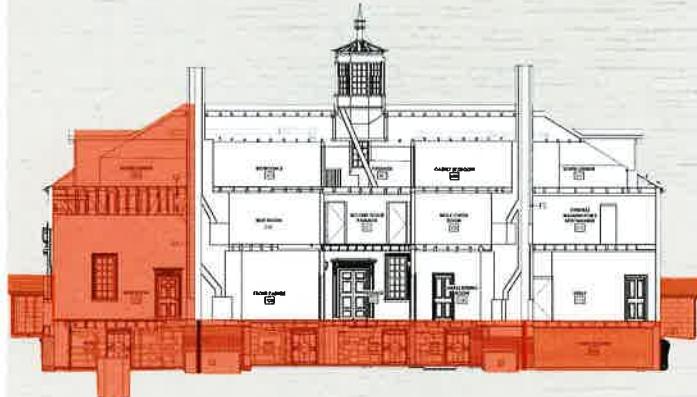
This work is extensive and we will rely on your dedicated support every step of the way.

Our team has begun beneath the New Room— removing the previously installed brick and slate inserts and replacing them with carefully crafted wood sills to reestablish strong connections between the walls, floor, and foundation.

The New Room will remain closed until August when it will re-open for the remainder of the Mansion Revitalization Project, giving students and guests the opportunity to visit this Mansion signature room.



Masonry work is underway in the center and south sections of the cellar. The cellar will remain closed throughout the project's final phase. Once complete, the trenching installation of ductwork, and commissioning of the new HVAC system will take place.



## Phase 1 (January—July 2024)

All rooms except for the New Room and Cellar are open.



All objects were temporarily removed and protective plastic was applied to the rest of the New Room to safeguard it from construction dust and debris.



19th-century repairs to the foundation to eradicate termites inadvertently impacted the long-term strength of the Mansion's structure. Replacing the non-original beams and strengthening the joinery will allow the structure to once again function as 18th-century carpenters originally intended.

# Our Founding Floorboards

Our Director of Preservation, Thomas A. Reinhart, led his team into an extensive investigation utilizing documentation and close hands-on analysis of the New Room floorboards to verify they were, indeed, the originals from 1785.

That is right! When visitors tour the New Room, they are walking on the same floorboards as George Washington and other individuals who framed this great nation.

By supporting this phase of the Mansion Revitalization project, you are enabling us to strengthen the framing so present and future generations can continue to build on the strong foundation they left us.



In 2013, Thomas Reinhart (left) made the revolutionary discovery that the floorboards in the New Room were original to Washington. Thanks to your support, these founding beams will continue to be preserved for generations.

## Your Preservation Dollars Teach, Inspire, and Restore



Discoveries like the origin of the New Room floorboards reveal how critical it is to preserve as much of the historic fabric of the Mansion as possible. You may recall that we recently restored the historic Wash House. Not only did this restoration provide a strong building frame for the historic structure but also a valuable test-run of procedures for the framing work on the Mansion sills.

This crucial work revealed several efficiencies that will allow us to save preservation dollars and preserve even more of the Mansion's original, historic fabric.

Your contributions to the 2023 Revolution to Revitalization Year-End Matching Gift Challenge allowed us to do this critical work that had a major impact. **Thank you.**



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